

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10878 010943Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
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R 301657Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5712
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

UNCLAS LONDON 10878

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV' RH, XX
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT ON
COMMONWEALTH FORCE

REFERENCE: LONDON 10780 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING SPECULATIVE STORIES IN THE LONDON PRESS AT
THE BEGINNING OF THIS WEEK CONCERNING A POSSIBLE
COMMONWEALTH FORCE FOR RHODESIA' THE COMMONWEALTH
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SECRETARIAT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT JUNE 29:
BEGIN TEXT: IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM
JOURNALISTS ABOUT PLANS FOR A COMMONWEALTH MILITARY
PRESENCE IN ZIMBABWE, THE INFORMATION DIVISION REPLIED
AS FOLLOWS:
THE IDEA OF A COMMONWEALTH ROLE IN RHODESIA DURING
THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION IS NOT A NEW ONE; BUT IT IS

MERELY ONE IN A SET OF ALTERNATIVE WAYS IN WHICH THE
COMMONWEALTH MIGHT HELP TO BRING PEACE AND JUSTICE TO
ZIMBABWE.

AT THEIR RECENT MEETING IN LONDON. COMMONWEALTH
LEADERS EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONVICTION THAT:

"A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT MUST ENTAIL NOT ONLY THE
REMOVAL OF THE ILLEGAL SMITH REGIME BUT ALSO THE
DISMANTLING OF ITS APPARATUS OF REPRESSION, IN ORDER
TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE CREATION OF POLICE AND ARMED
FORCES WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF THE
PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND ENSURE THE ORDERLY AND
EFFECTIVE TRANSFER OF POWER."

AT THE LEVEL OF THE COMMONWEALTH THERE ARE AT PRESENT
NO PLANS FOR A PEACEKEEPING FORCE AS SUCH, NOR ANY
OFFERS OF PARTICIPATION BY MEMBER COUNTRIES. THE
COMMONWEALTH MAY WELL HAVE A ROLE IN ZIMBABWE, BUT ITS
NATURE AND SHAPE CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED IN AGREEMENT
WITH ZIMBABWE'S LEADERSHIP AND MUST FULLY ACCORD WITH
THEIR OBJECTIVES AND ASPIRATIONS. END TEXT

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